

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: FURTHER SOVIET REPORTAGE ON KISSINGER VISIT

REF: MOSCOW 4635

1. PRAVDA COMMENT (IN WEEKLY REVIEW MARCH 31)
STICKS CLOSE TO COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE IN EVALUATING
KISSINGER VISIT, CALLING IT "IMPORTANT STAGE" IN
FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. PRAVDA
TREATMENT MORE STEREOTYPED THAN BOVIN COMMENTARY IN
IZVESTIYA (REFTEL). IT FOLLOWS COMMUNIQUE CLOSELY ON
SALT, TAKING MORE OPTIMISTIC TONE THAN BOVIN AND OMITTING
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HIS REFERENCE TO U.S. MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. LIKE

BOVIN, PRAVDA OBSERVER (ORESTOV) CRITICIZES FORCES IN U.S. OPPOSED TO DETENTE. HE CITES THEIR PRESSURE ON CONGRESS OVER TRADE AND CRITICIZES FORCES IN U.S. PRESS FOR SAYING BILATERAL COOPERATION BENEFITS ONLY SOVIET UNION.

2. BOTH IZVESTIYA MARCH 30 AND PRAVDA MARCH 31 RUN TASS STORY FROM WASHINGTON EMPHASIZING VEST'S STATEMENT THAT TALKS WERE A DEFINITE STEP FORWARD (BUT NOT CITING SALT CONTEXT OF VEST REMARK). STORY ALSO ATTRIBUTES TO VEST STATEMENT THAT SUMMIT SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON PROGRESS IN ANY PARTICULAR AREA OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. INDEED, POST-VISIT SOVIET REPORTAGE HAS BEEN STRIKING FOR THE EMPHASIS IT HAS PLACED ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S COMING VISIT.

3. IZVESTIYA LEADER MARCH 30, PEGGED TO THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET PEACE PROGRAM, MENTIONS BREZHNEV'S TALKS WITH KISSINGER (AS WELL AS BREZHNEV'S TALKS WITH POMPIDOU AND GROMYKO'S VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST) AS RECENT SIGNS OF PERMANENT ACTIVITY AND PURPOSEFULNESS OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY.

4. PRAVDA AMERICAN SECTION CHIEF RATIANI TOLD AN ITALIAN JOURNALIST MARCH 29 NOT TO EXPECT A FULL-BLOWN PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON THE KISSINGER VISIT. RATHER CURIOUS REASON HE CITED WAS THAT PRAVDA IS A PARTY PAPER AND PARTY CHIEF BREZHNEV PARTICIPATED IN TALKS. RATIANI DID SAY PRAVDA WOULD PROBABLY PUBLISH A SUMMARY OF WESTERN PRESS REACTION. THAT IT HAS NOT YET DONE SO IS UNTYPICAL; IT MAY REFLECT A SOVIET BELIEF THAT THE WESTERN PRESS HAS NOT BEEN POSITIVE ENOUGH ON THE VISIT. STOESSEL

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